

Document A: New York Journal

Purchased by William Randolph Hearst in 1895, the Journal published investigative and human interest stories that used a highly emotional writing style and included banner headlines and graphic images.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt
Convinced the Explosion
of the War Ship Was Not
an Accident.

Comment [A1]: Underline this because saying an enemy was responsible for the explosion in the headline indicates that this newspaper thinks the explosion was planned and purposeful.

Comment [A2]: Underline again—the newspaper thinks this was no accident; this was purposeful.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals
Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death.

Naval Officers Unanimous That
the Ship Was Destroyed
on Purpose.

Comment [A3]: E—does this count as evidence? No names included or quotations from them...

Comment [A4]: Underline again—the newspaper thinks this was no accident; this was purposeful.

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

Comment [A5]: Underline again—Aha, now the newspaper is assigning blame—the Spanish did it.

George Eugene Bryson, the Journal's special correspondent at Havana, cables that it is the secret opinion of many Spaniards in the Cuban capital, that the Maine was destroyed and 258 men killed by means of marine mine or fixed torpedo. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities. The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the Maine anchored over one of the harbor mines. Wires connected the mines with a ... magazine, and it is thought the explosion was caused by sending an electric current through the wire. If this can be proven, the brutal nature of the Spaniards will be shown by the fact that they waited to spring the mine after all the men had retired for the night. The Maltese cross in the picture shows where the mine may have been fired.

Comment [A6]: E—does this count as evidence? Again no names and a correspondent for this paper may be as biased as this paper.

Comment [A7]: Underline again—it's the Spaniards' fault.

Comment [A8]: What is a magazine? When I look it up in the dictionary is says a magazine is a part of a ship where weapons, ammunition, and explosives are stored.

Comment [A9]: E—this says it has NOT been proven. They do NOT know yet.

Comment [A10]: Underline again—this newspaper doesn't have a good opinion of Spaniards.

Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-Of-War—Officer and Men tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scou[t] the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck. Was the Vessel Anchored Over a Mine?

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt says he is convinced that the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor was not an accident. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for exclusive evidence that will convict the person, persons or government criminally responsible for the [destruction] of the American battleship and the death of 258 of its crew.

The suspicion that the Maine was deliberately blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact to the contrary has been produced....

Comment [A11]: E—this says it is only a “suspicion” and that there are no facts against this suspicion. But there are also no facts to support this suspicion yet!

Source: Excerpt from *New York Journal and Advertiser*, February 17, 1898.

New York Journal Annotation Guide

Clarify meanings:

1. Circle any words or phrases that do not make sense to you.
2. Work with your group to clarify and explain the meaning in the margin next to the circled word or phrase. If you cannot figure it out, put a question mark next to it.

Recognizing author’s perspectives:

1. Underline words or phrases that help you identify the newspaper’s view of the causes of the *USS Maine explosion*.
2. Write in the margins next to the underlined words and phrases how you think the newspaper sees the explosion.

Recognizing author’s arguments:

1. Write “Evidence” next to any statements that the newspaper uses to support its claims.